



Attorney Docket No. 203-1544 CIP CON III (1695 CIP CON)

PATENT

#6/B
X. C. C. H.
8/7/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(s): Dominick L. Mastri et al. EXAMINER: S. Smith
SERIAL NO: 09/625,886 GROUP: 3721
FILED: July 26, 2000 DATE: May 11, 2001
FOR: SURGICAL STAPLER DOCKET: 203-1544 CIP CON
III (1695 CIP CON)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2001

Dear Sir:

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 1 and add the following new claims:

20. A surgical stapling kit which comprises:

a) a surgical stapler having a handle portion, an elongate body extending distally from the handle portion, and an actuation assembly operatively associated with the handle portion and the elongate body, the body of the stapler having a first portion of an engagement coupling disposed at a distal end portion thereof; and

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EL820507615US addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: May 11, 2001

Christopher G. Trainor
Christopher G. Trainor